

# MINUTES

## Of the Board of Directors of Grow Public Schools

(A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation)

### I. PRELIMINARY

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors of this corporation, held their board meeting at the time, on the day, and at the place set forth as follows:

Time: 4:07pm

Date: September 26, 2022

Location: 471 W Los Angeles Ave, Shafter, CA 93263

#### 2. DIRECTORS PRESENT

The following directors, constituting a quorum of the Board, were present at the meeting:

Present: Tom Mestmaker, President; Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA), Dr. Kristen Watson

Absent: Ernie Unruh, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Representative, Manuel Pantoja

Grow Public Schools Staff Present: Doc Ervin, Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Ricardo Esquivel, Chief of Schools; Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer; Michelle Lumis, Compliance & Network Coordinator; Eric Mendez, HR Director; Rick Phillips, Operations Manager; Elizabeth Ramos, Interpreter, via teleconference; Jenny Bard, Director Teacher Development; Elysa Vargas, Director MTSS; Afaf Aldhulay, Marketing & Communications Manager; Melody Castillo, Accounting Manager; Hurshel Williams, Principal, Grow Academy Arvin; Lacie Harris; Principal, Grow Academy Shafter; Bridgett Rubio, Parent/POGA President

Grimm Family Education Foundation Staff Present: Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder; Dylan Wilson, ESYKC Executive Director; Kari Heilman, Executive Assistant, Jennifer Marcus, Office Manager, via teleconference, Raj Cheshire, Director of Community Engagement & Development, via teleconference

Other attendees: Cindy Frantz, Back-Office Provider, EdTec; James Ramsey, Signa-Terra; Allison Fenton, Signa-Terra

Tom Mestmaker, President acknowledged Grow Public Schools newest board member, Dr. Kristen Watson. Dr. Watson serves as Chief of Staff to President Lynnette Zelezny at California State University, Bakersfield and we are excited to have her. She will be a great addition to our board.

3. *FLAG SALUTE*
4. *ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT - None*

## II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of August 29, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Purchase Orders, Warrants and Credit Card Register for August 2022
3. Approval of 2022-23 CONAPP for GA Arvin
4. Approval of 2022-23 CONAPP for GA Shafter
5. Approval of Amended Independent Study Policy & Master Agreement
6. Approval of 2021-2022 Unaudited Actuals for GA Arvin
7. Approval of 2021-2022 Unaudited Actuals for GA Shafter

On a motion made duly by Matt Look seconded by Dr. Kristen Watson, and carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Tom Mestmaker	X			
Manuel Pantoja			X	
Ernie Unruh			X	
Matt Look	X			
Dr. Kristen Watson	X			

## III. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. *GROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT*

Chief Executive Officer, Doc Ervin, shared that the Executive Leadership Team will be presenting a high-level report on the 45-Day Entry Plan, facility updates, and Executive Leadership Updates.

Chief of Schools, Dr. Ric Esquivel, presented the Board with 45-day deliverables.

The first goal - prioritize academic growth and achievement needs. Assessment - weekly school leader professional development, teacher and SGI (Small Group Instruction) regular professional development, implementation of the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), implementation of the 6-week Culture Plan, and weekly classroom visits. The takeaway - beginning stages of alignment of curricular, instructional, operational, and social and emotional wellness programs.

The second goal - stakeholder communication and engagement. Assessment - conducted organizational needs and gathered input from LAC and families, facilitated meet and greets, and established ongoing and regular communication with key network stakeholders. The takeaway - focusing on the urgency of current schools, overarching emerging goals, recruitment and retention of mission and vision aligned personnel.

The third goal – provide final recommendations on the BC High School Project. Assessment – evaluated needs and priorities of current schools including academic readiness, student recruitment, demographics and matriculation, engaged with BC partners regarding facility and financial sustainability, and assessed transportation feasibility and needs. The takeaway – exclusive focus on GA-Arvin and GA-Shafter and hold on opening BC College High School until Fall 2023.

The 90-day deliverables will continue to focus on academic culture of excellence and the implementation of academic cornerstones. This plan also includes faculty and staff engagement, assessment of current facility needs, enhancement of technology and infrastructure, and identification of emerging themes and long and short-term goals.

Doc Ervin shared that at the end of the 90 days, they will be able to identify emerging themes and overarching goals. These will then be shared throughout the network.

Dr. Kristen Watson asked, “Once the long- and short-term goals have been identified, how do you envision getting them to the community? What does that look like?”. Dr. Ric Esquivel replied through the Advisory Leadership Council, school site leadership and parents.

Mike Romero, Chief Operating Officer, gave a facilities update. He shared that beautification projects continue at both campuses - seed has been applied to the lawn, plants are being replaced and the parking lot in Shafter will be resurfaced next week.

Dr. Esquivel shared the Executive Leadership Team Updates. He commented that less than 20% of our students are on grade level for math on both campuses. He is recommending outsourcing with KCSOS. Former math administrators will come on each campus and conduct professional development – CRA model with hands-on activities.

Eric Mendez, Director of HR, shared the home office’s Recruitment and Retention update. Open positions are currently the Coordinator of Professional Development, Coordinator of Academic Data, Office Manager, and HR Payroll Specialist/Clerk. Recruitment and Retention will be one of our emerging themes.

## *B. Schools Leadership Report*

Grow Academy Arvin’s Principal, Hurshel Williams, shared that there is a continued focus on accelerating academic growth. The benchmarks that were created by the GAA and GAS Instructional Leadership Team were given the week of September 19<sup>th</sup> to the GAA scholars K-8th grade. Instructors will use this data to re-teach and deepen student learning through small group or whole class instruction moving into Q2.

The Fall '22 Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APPT) meetings were held during the week of September 19<sup>th</sup> and were a success. These meetings gave parents grade level core content standards and the opportunity to learn and contribute in a collaborative environment, and inform families how they may support their scholar's learning at home.

Grow Academy Shafter's Principal, Lacie Harris, shared that the six-week culture plan has brought campus wide systems and structures to support academic excellence into focus. GAS has successfully hosted eighteen evening parent events and one morning session starting in July 2022. Family participation at these events is averaging 60% - our goal is to get to 75%.

Blended learning and teacher clarity have been a focal point during the first quarter. Instructors are using student data to prepare lessons and formative assessments based on student need. The GAS leadership team prioritizes consistent classroom walkthroughs and feedback.

### *C. Parent Report*

Bridgett Rubio, Parent, POGA commented that it has been wonderful to start this year with no restrictions. POGA entered a float in the Wasco Rose Parade and won. We have a "Trunk or Treat" event on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The meet and greet that the Executive Leadership team held - "Grow & Glow" was a great platform for parents. Families are pleased with how things are going.

Matt Look, Star Parents of Grow Academy (SPGA) shared that they have a couple of upcoming events in October and GAA started volleyball and flag football.

Barbara Grimm Marshall asked how many parents are engaged in each parent group.

Bridgett Rubio responded that in Shafter there are 9 parents on the committee and 25-30 in their volunteer group. They are working on building their list. Shafter's group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4:00pm.

Matt Look commented that Arvin's parents are not as engaged yet. They have approximately 10 to 15 parents. Arvin's group meetings are also held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Doc Ervin shared that the Executive Leadership Team is looking at placing a Family and Community Engagement liaison on each campus. The job description is being reviewed and he will set a meeting with Bridgett Rubio and Matt Look so they can provide their input. Parent involvement = student success.

Dr. Kristen Watson asked Bridgett Rubio if she is seeing parents involved at all grade levels. She responded that parents in the lower grades, K-5 are more engaged.

### *D. Grimm Family Education Foundation Report*

Barbara Grimm Marshall, Founder, shared that she is excited that Dr. Kristen Watson has joined the GPS board. She will provide excellent insight and perspective. She also

thanked the Executive Leadership Team for their continued work on the 45/90 day entry plan and their engagement on each of the campuses. The progress has been fantastic.

Dylan Wilson, Edible Schoolyard Kern County Executive Director, shared that earlier this month Shafter hosted an ESY professional development – “Teach Like a Champion.” Next month’s meeting will be hosted in Arvin. Priscilla Hernandez, Lead Kitchen Educator in Shafter, has been selected to participate in the Sustainable Food Project for the Fall/Winter Session at the American Academy in Rome. She will be learning seed to table components and new skills that she can bring back to our ESY. She leaves mid-October. The Foundation’s *Toast & Taste* event is coming up on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. We will once again be partnering with the Bakersfield College culinary team to provide seasonal bites and wine tastings will be provided by Campo Wine. Tickets are now on sale.

#### **IV. AUGUST FISCAL REPORT**


Cindy Franz from EdTec (back-office provider) provided the Board with the 2022 Grow Public Schools financial update.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion the board adjourned at 5:03 pm.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I certify that I am the duly elected Secretary of the Grow Public Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation; that these minutes, consisting of five (5) pages, are the minutes of the regular board meeting of the Board of Directors held on September 26, 2022.



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Secretary